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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release

SEALSKIN PRICES DROP AT FALL FUR AUCTION

Although spirited bidding by a good attendance of fur buyers at the annual fall auction held by the Fouke Fur Company in St. Louis on September 27 resulted in the sale of the entire lot of Government-owned fur-seal skins, the average price declined 16.5 percent, the Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

The gross proceeds from the sale of the sealskins amounted to \$1,363,503.25 while an additional \$1,377 was realized from Pribilof Islands fox pelts. At the last auction, held on April 19, 1948, a total of 29,362 fur-seal skins brought \$2,058,787.50 while \$2,250 was received for 497 blue fox pelts.

A total of 22,964 dressed, dyed, machined and finished fur-seal skins from the Pribilof Islands were offered by the Government at the September 27 auction through its agent, the Fouke Fur Company of St. Louis. The average price for the entire offering was \$59.38; at the spring auction it was \$70.10. The average at the October 1947 auction was \$57.92.

Of the skins sold, 13,314 were dyed matara brown, 7,574 were safari brown, and 2,076 were black. The average for all matara finished skins was \$63.24, a decline of 17.9 percent. Safaris averaged \$55.35, down 17.9 percent; blacks averaged \$49.28, an advance of 7 percent. The average for blue fox was \$3.81, a decline of 15.9 percent.

The South African Government's Cape of Good Hope skins averaged \$31.19, an advance of 4.8 percent. Sealskins sold for the account of other shippers averaged \$27.98, an advance of 15.3 percent.

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